

Brief *newsletter*

December | 2007

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1 **Budget Cuts Approved**

Implementation of a sweeping series of budget cuts approved by the City Council is underway. The reduction package, which eliminates 113 positions, and corrects an \$8.2 million shortfall for this year and a projected \$15.5 million shortfall for fiscal year 2008-09. Every City department has been affected by the budget cuts with reductions ranging from 15% in Administration and Finance, and 6% in Public Works, Police and Fire. Although City staff sought to minimize impacts on the public, Chula Vista residents will notice changes in City operations and services. Reduced staffing will result in shorter library hours, fewer recreation programs, longer response times for some police and animal control calls, increased waiting times at City counters, and a reduction in the quality of street and park maintenance. An unanticipated decline in general fund revenue, triggered by a severe housing slowdown and lower than expected franchise fees and sales taxes, contributed to the City's financial dilemma.

2 **Shop Chula Vista**

This month, Mayor Cheryl Cox officially launched the "Shop Chula Vista" campaign that encourages residents to support local businesses and City services by shopping and dining in Chula Vista. The campaign, sponsored by the City of Chula Vista and the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce, urges residents to patronize the growing number of shopping centers and restaurants that are opening in the city. Spending locally makes businesses successful and generates sales tax revenues, which help fund our libraries, recreation centers, fire and police protection and street-paving program.



3 **Library Closes for Upgrade**

The Chula Vista Public Library's Civic Center branch, located at 365 F Street, will be closed from Dec. 10 to Jan. 6 for a re-carpeting project. More than 12,000 sq. ft. of carpeting will be replaced in the library's entry and marketplace areas. During the closure, library guests may visit the South Chula Vista and EastLake branches. In addition, many of the library's services can be accessed online at www.chulavistalibrary.com. The book drop at the Civic Center branch will remain open, and items may also be renewed by calling (619) 409-5957. The South Chula Vista branch, located at 389 Orange Avenue, will be open the following hours beginning the week of Dec. 10: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



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4 Building Code Changes

New building standards go into effect January 1. Look for the link to the updated policy by visiting the City's home page at www.chulavistaca.gov.



5 New at Otay Ranch Town Center

Film buffs are counting down the days as AMC Theatres prepares to open its new twelve-screen theatre at the Otay Ranch Town Center. Watch the latest releases in comfortable surroundings featuring stadium and LoveSeat-style seating, digital surround sound, and state-of-the-art convenient, fast-service concession stands. The multi-plex, located near California Pizza Kitchen, will offer advance credit card ticket sales by phone or online.

AMC 12 Theatre is expected to open December 14--just in time for the holidays. For more information, call (619) 656-9100 or visit www.otayranchtowncenter.com.

6 Light Up the Holidays

Christmas Circle, one of Chula Vista's holiday traditions, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Walk or drive through this neighborhood decorated with displays of sparkling lights and festive ornaments. The Circle is open December 8-26 from 5-10 p.m. daily. It's located on Whitney and Mankato between First and Second Avenues, south of H Street.



7 Time to Renew

The City's annual renewal of business licenses is already underway. Notices will be mailed as soon as business licenses expire at the end of the year. To avoid penalties, renew your business license by January 31, 2008. This year, don't wait in long lines to complete the paperwork; renew and pay online through the city's website, www.chulavistaca.gov at no extra cost. For more information regarding this new feature, please refer to your business license renewal notice. You can still pay in person at the City of Chula Vista Finance Department located at 276 Fourth Avenue. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8 Raising Healthier Kids

Enroll yourself and your children in a new Recreation program designed to promote healthy eating and exercise. The program, Kids in Dynamic Shape, is geared towards children 5-12 years old and is made possible by a one-year grant from the Kaiser Foundation Hospitals. It's a six-week session hosted by the Otay Recreation Center January 11 through February 15. Each 90-minute class includes important information about nutrition, physical activity and behavior change education for children and their family members. To learn more, call (619) 476-5325.



contact

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